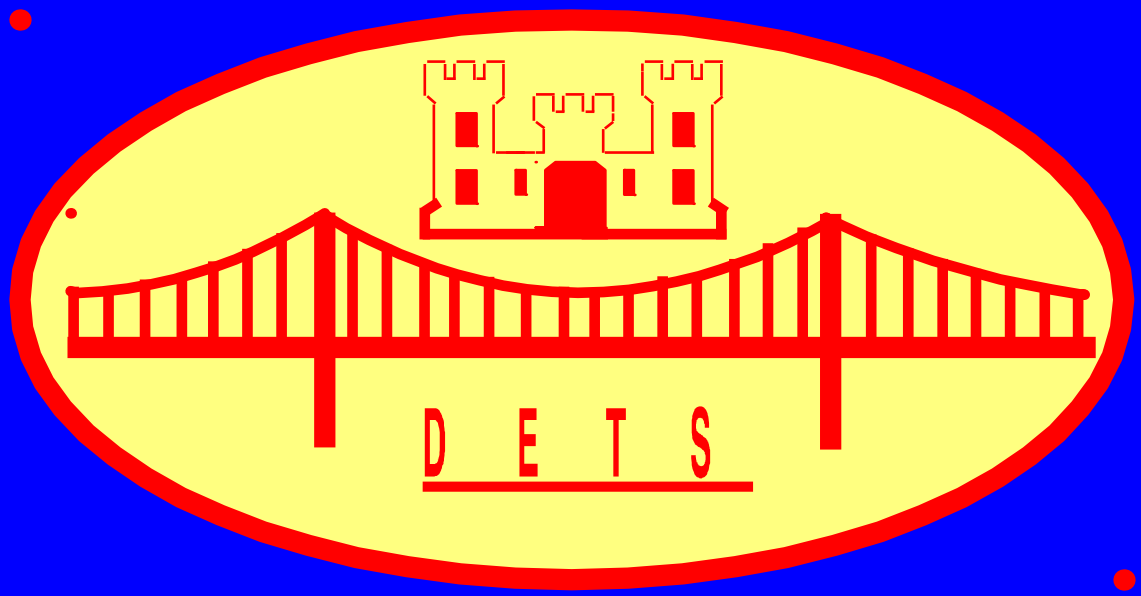
Overview of the Reconnaissance Phase



Planning
South Pacific Division

Reconnaissance Phase

- Begins when the District receives Federal Funds to conduct study
- Ends when the District Engineer signs the Feasibility cost-sharing agreement

Reconnaissance Phase

- Goal: *Determine whether the Corps should investigate the problems in more detail during a second phase of study*
  - Is there a Corps interest?
  - Is there a non-Federal Sponsor?
- Study is fully paid for by the Corps

Reconnaissance Study Scope

- Can investigate a single problem - navigation flood control, storm damage prevention, or ecosystem restoration
- Or, can investigate multiple problems
- Comprehensive Watershed Studies
  - With the potential of spin-off reconnaissance studies

Purposes of Reconnaissance Study

- **Define water resources problems and identify solutions**
- **Decide whether there is a Corps interest in solving the problems**
- **Identify a local sponsor**
- **Prepare a Project Study Plan**

Expedited Reconnaissance Study

- Must be done with little detail and little money
- Verify/understand water resource problems
- Use existing, readily available data
- Coordinate with sponsor and Federal, State and local agencies

Expedited Reconnaissance Guidance

- **Planning Guidance Letter 96-3**
  - Streamline study process
  - Produce quality feasibility studies more quickly and at less cost
  - Revised by Planning Guidance Memorandum 99-01
- **CESPD-ET-P Memorandum**, dated 19 March 1999, subject: Expedited Reconnaissance Phase Studies (Third Revision)

HQUSACE Expedited Reconnaissance Phase Goals

- Time to Complete Phase (sign FCSA)
  - 6-12 Months
- Cost to complete Phase
  - $100,000

In the original guidance, the study would be terminated if the FCSA could not be signed within the $100,000 budget. Some flexibility has been added with latest guidance.

HQUSACE Guidance Reconnaissance Phase Products

- **Project Study Plan (PSP)**
- Section 905(b) Analysis
  - A report is not required
- Letter of Intent
- Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement

SPD Reconnaissance Guidance

- Developed by a District/Division Task Force
- Clarify expectations
- Sample schedule
- Sample cost distribution

Reconnaissance Study Steps

- **Initiation**
- **Field Trip**
- **Scoping** (Brainstorming, Charrette)
- **Milestone Conference**
- **Complete the 905(b) Analysis**
- **Reconnaissance Review Conference (Optional)**
- **Complete Project Study Plan**
- **Negotiate FCSA**

PLANNING PROCESS

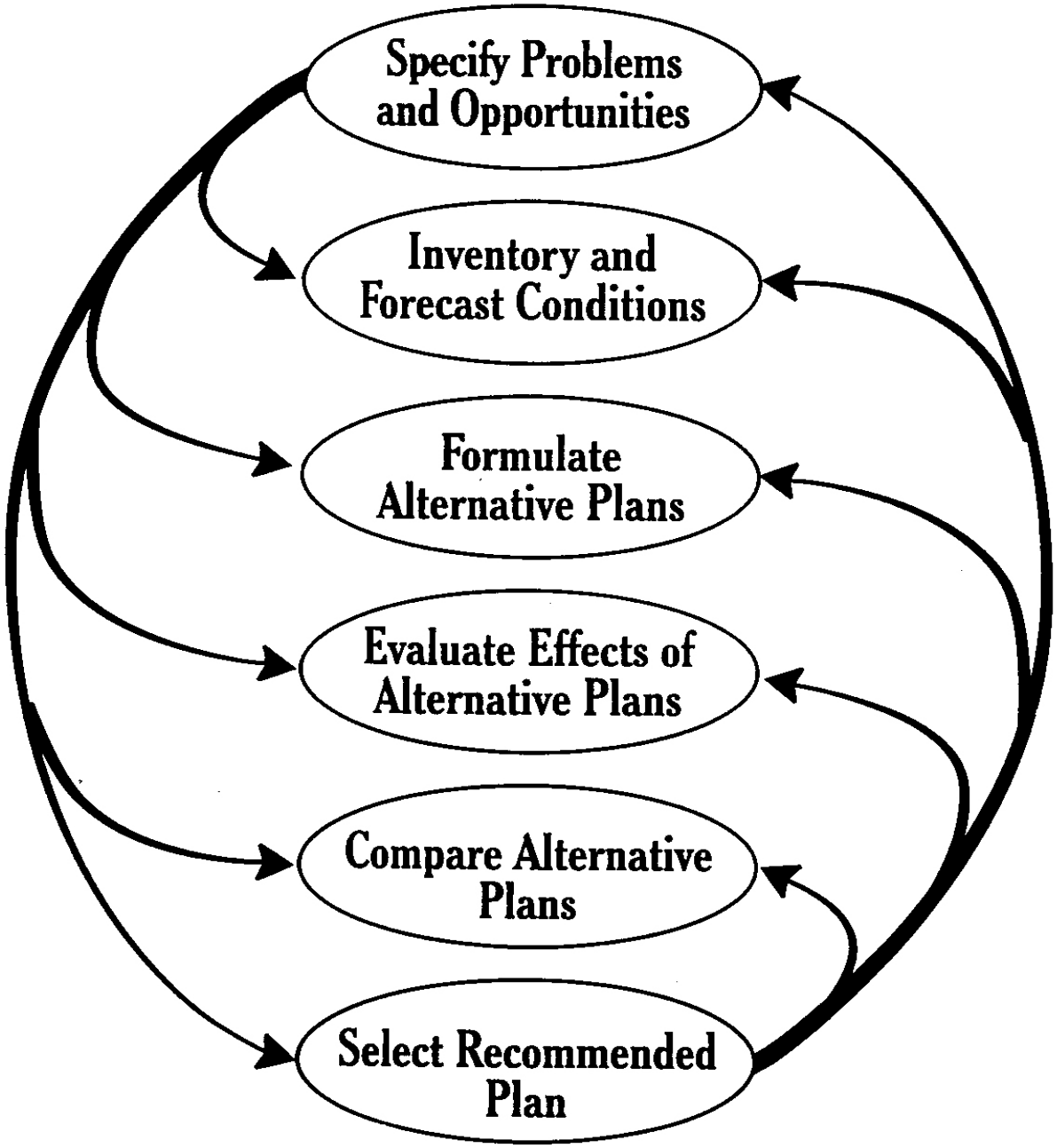
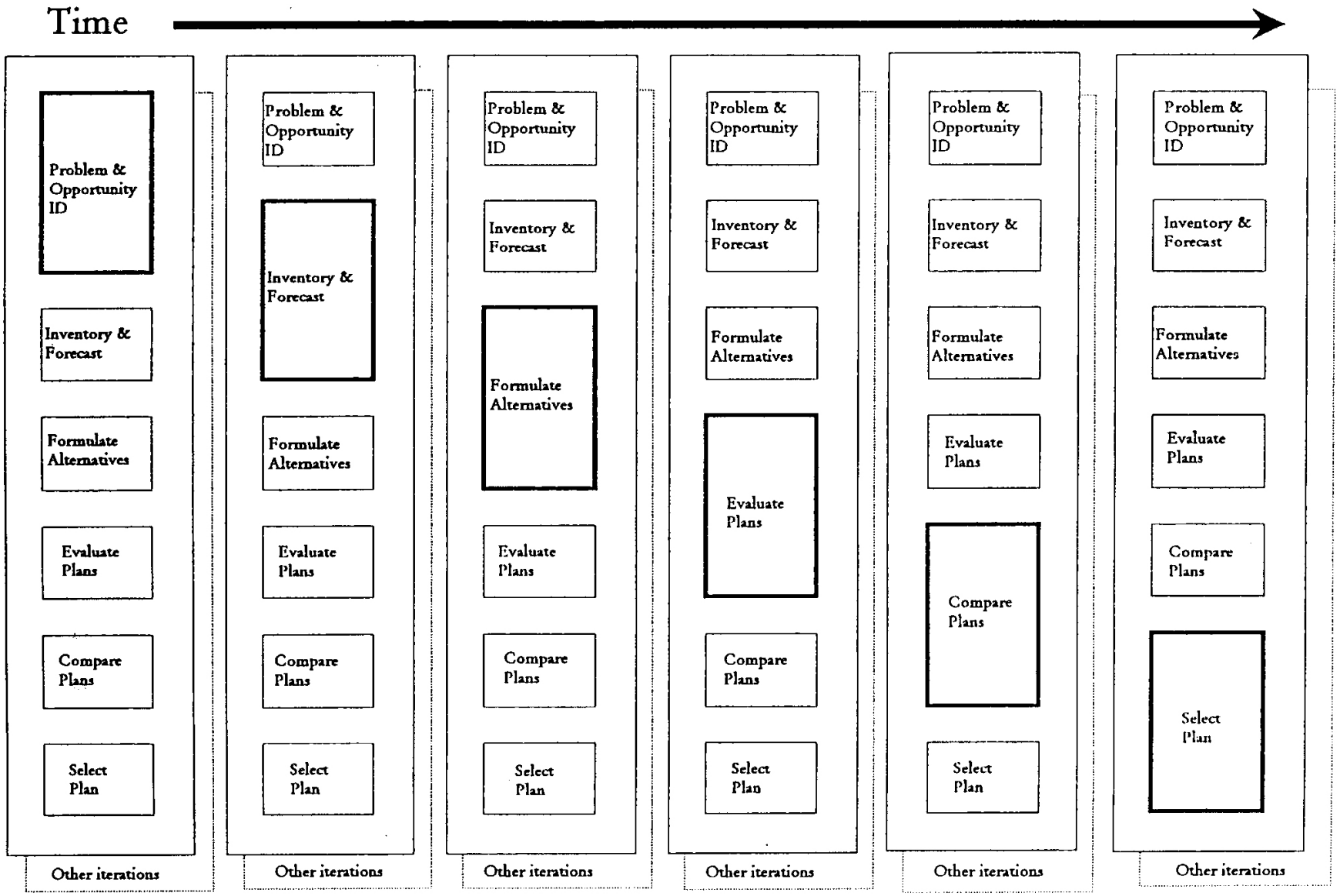
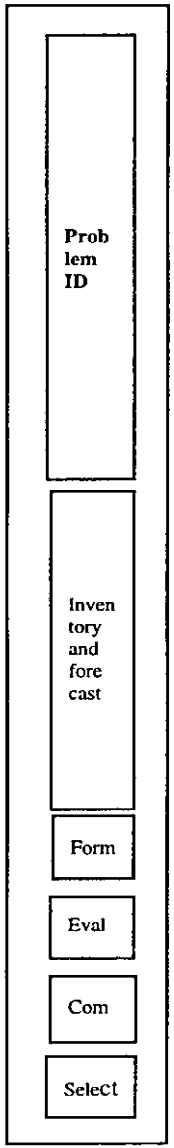


Figure 2: Corps' Planning Process

DRAFT

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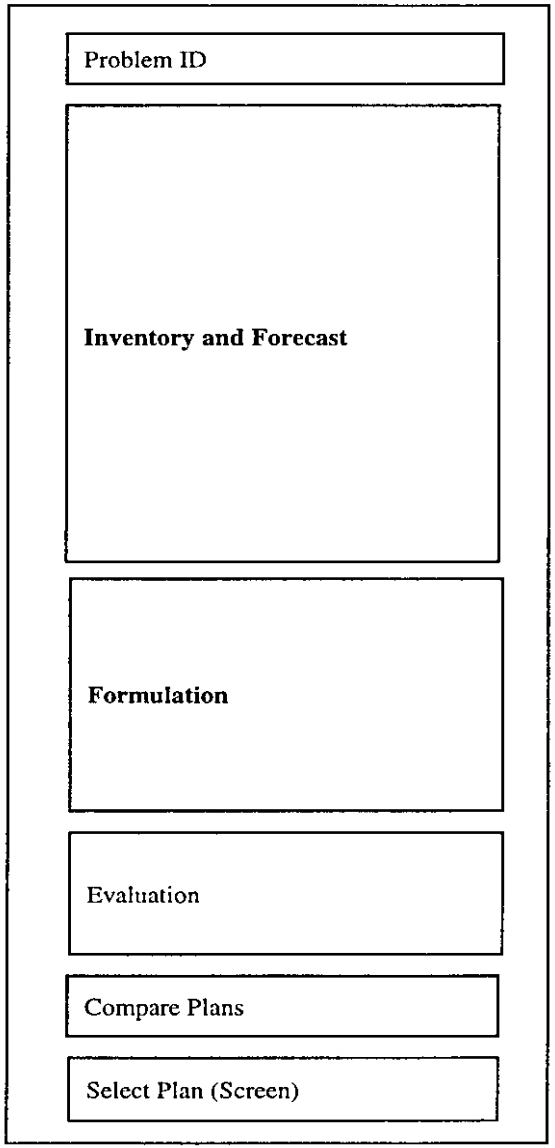
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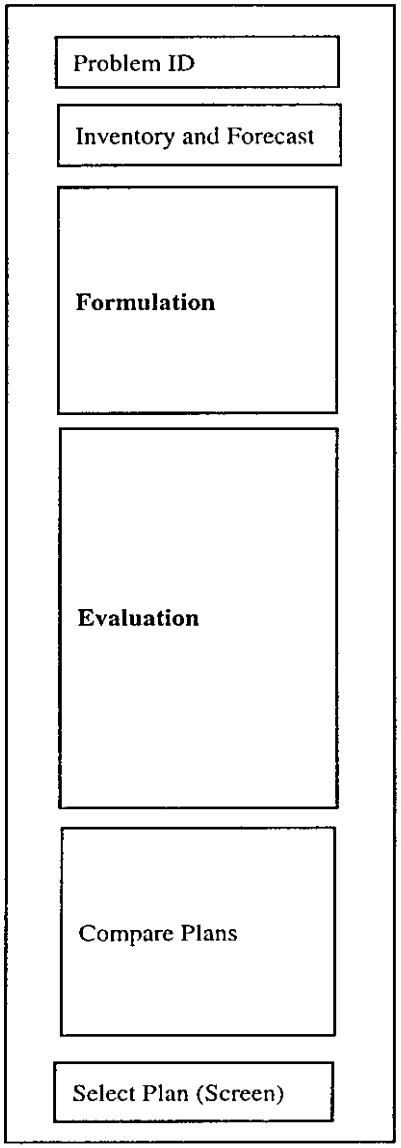
Inventory and Forecast
Formulation
Evaluation
Compare Plans
Select Plan (Screen)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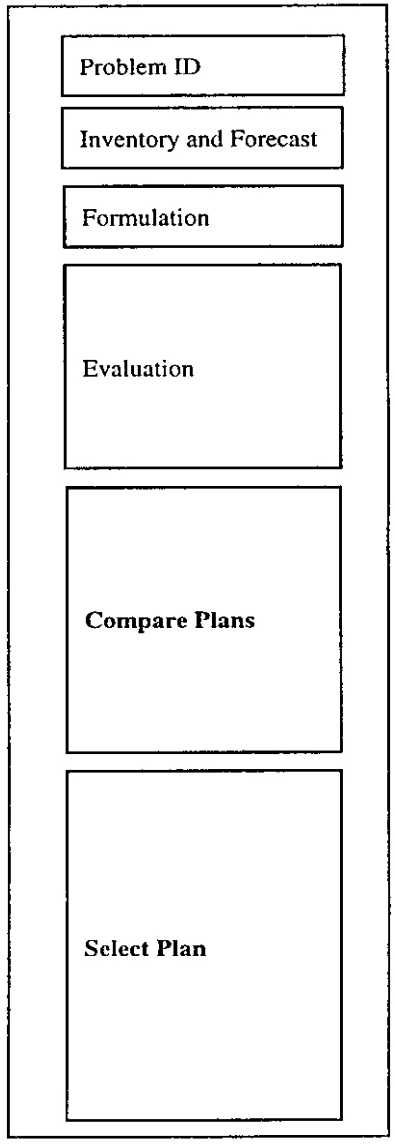

Problem ID
Inventory and Forecast
Formulation
Evaluation
Compare Plans
Select Plan

SPD Expedited Reconnaissance Phase Guidance - Schedule

- Field Trip conducted within one month of initiation
- Section 905(b) Analysis must be completed in the fiscal year of initiation
- Draft PSP and Section 905(b) Analysis should be completed within 6 months from study initiation
- Goal is to sign the FCSA within one year

Expedited Reconnaissance Phase HQUSACE Actions

- HQUSACE approval of Section 905(b) Analysis is to ensure that the reconnaissance study findings are consistent with current policies and budgetary priorities
- Optional Reconnaissance Review Conference (RRC) includes the district study team, Division, HQ and sponsors with a focus on the PSP
- Approval of the PSP has been delegated to the District Project Review Board

Reconnaissance Quality Control

- Generic quality control study plan
- Peer consultation (rather than review)
- Normal supervisory review
- Independent review by a single planning expert
- Certification of the Section 905(b) Analysis and the Project Study Plan by the Chief of Planning
- Project Study Plan includes the Quality Control Plan for the Feasibility Study

Section 905(b) Analysis

Section 905 (b) Analysis

- Use Available Data
- Limited Analysis to Evaluate the Justification for a Feasibility Study
- Rely on Informed Professional Judgement
- HQUSACE approval of streamlining initiatives and provides basis of review for the Feasibility Report

Section 905 (b) Analysis Outline

- Study authority
- Study purpose
- Location of project/Congressional District
- Discussion of prior studies, reports and existing water projects
- Plan formulation
  - Identified problems
  - Alternative plans
  - Evaluation of alternatives

Section 905 (b) Analysis Outline (cont'd)

- **Federal interest**
- **Preliminary financial analysis**
- **Schedule – Major Milestones ***
- **Cost Estimate - Code of Accounts ***
- **Assumptions and Exceptions ***
- **Recommendations**
- **Potential issues affecting initiation of feasibility phase –** include discussion of potential FCSA schedule
- **Project area map**

905(b) Analysis DOES NOT Include:

- Detailed Costs
- Detailed E & D Studies
- Detailed Environmental Studies
- Optimization and BC Analysis
- Detailed Real Estate
- Major Amounts of:
  - Report Preparation
  - Formal Coordination
  - Background studies
- SAVE THESE FOR FEASIBILITY PHASE

Project Study Plans
PSP

Project Study Plan

- Study team must prepare the PSP
- PSP includes detailed description of tasks and corresponding costs and schedule for conducting the feasibility study
- Represents a contract between all parties

Level of Detail Identified in the PSP

- Sufficient for:
  - Authorization Decision
  - Within 902 Established Parameters (20%)
- Must meet NEPA requirements
- Must include an NED determination or incremental cost analysis
- Level of Engineering Detail is negotiable with sponsor

Project Study Plan

- Statement of Planning Objectives
- Plan Formulation Rationale
- Alternatives to be considered
- Streamlining initiatives
- Encouraged to use the Section 905(b) Analysis as a chapter summarizing the study
- Quality Control Plan for the Feasibility Study

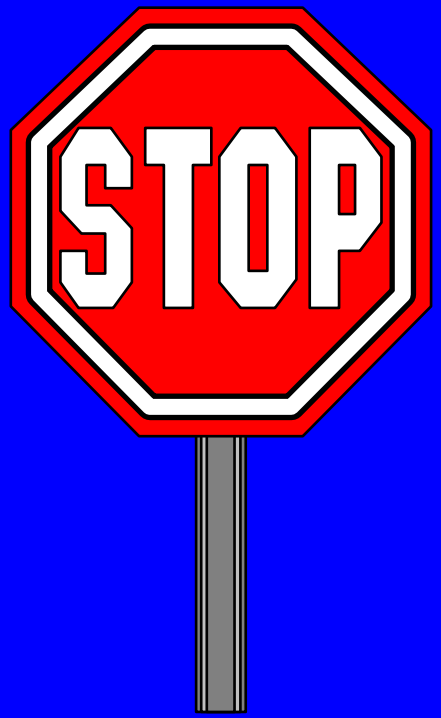
Project Study Plan

- **Project Study Plan**

"If the study team can't get together to prepare an integrated PSP, then they will never be able to prepare an integrated feasibility report"

Reconnaissance Phase Approvals

- Section 905(b) Analysis is approved at HQUSACE
- Approval of the PSP which includes the QC plan has been delegated to the District Project Review Board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